

R E M A R K S

This Amendment is submitted as a full and complete response to the outstanding Official Office Action mailed June 30, 2004. By this Amendment, applicant has canceled Claims 8, 10-16 and 17-20 and has now amended independent Claim 1 and dependent Claim 9. Accordingly, it is now believed that amended independent Claims 1 and the remaining claims dependent thereon have been placed in condition for allowance.

At the outset, in this Office Action, the Examiner has made an election of species requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 and has requested an identification of the species that is elected and a listing of all claims readable thereon. The Examiner has stated that this application contains claims directed to the following patentable distinct species of the claimed invention: Species I - Figures 1 through 4; Species II - Figures 5 through 8; and Species III - Figures 9 through 12.

Accordingly, applicant hereby confirms the provisional election made on June 23, 2004 to prosecute the invention species of Figures 1 through 4 with Claims 1-9 and 17-20 being readable thereon. Applicant further reserves the right to file a divisional application or take such other

appropriate measures as he deems necessary to protect the invention of the non-elected species and thus applicant does not waive any of his rights thereof or abandon such subject matter.

With respect to the drawings, it is noted that they have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because the reference character "64" has not been shown in Figure 4. Further, he has objected to Figure 4 in that the bottom wall 34 and the central opening 40 have not been clearly illustrated. The Examiner has also objected to Figure 3 in that the flange 58 has not been clearly shown. Finally, the top margins on the four sheets of drawings are objected to as being not acceptable. The Examiner has indicated that applicant is required to submit proposed drawing corrections or corrected drawings in reply to this Office Action.

In view of this, applicant has submitted concurrently herewith a separate letter to the Official Draftsman attaching four (4) new sheets of formal inked drawings so as to replace the ones previously filed. It is believed that these new drawings overcome each and every one of the objections raised in the Office Action.

Turning now to the rejection on the merits, it is noted that the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3, 17 and 18 as being allegedly anticipated under 35 USC 102 in view of Sharpe et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,209,721. Further, he has rejected Claims 2, 4-7, 19 and 20 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable in view of Sharpe et al. He has set forth in detail his reasons on pages 6-9 of this Office Action.

However, the Examiner's comment pointing out that Claims 8 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is thankfully noted. In view this, applicant has now canceled Claim 8 and incorporated the subject matter thereof into amended independent Claim 1. Therefore, it believed that amended Claim 1 has been placed in a condition for allowance.

Moreover, it is likewise submitted that Claims 2-7 and 9 being dependent upon amended independent Claim 1 should likewise be allowable for this reason alone.

In view of the foregoing discussion and amendments advanced to the claims, it is now believed that amended indepen-

dent Claim 1 and the remaining claims dependent thereon have been placed in condition for allowance. Therefore, a formal Notice of Allowability is believed to be in order and the same is earnestly solicited.

In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application may be expedited by direct contact with applicant's attorney, he is requested to call Davis Chin (815) 806-8477, Frankfort, Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments
04B-2094